

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Belle Point Community Gets New, Leafy Additions

by Vicki Kriz

This spring, residents of the Belle Point community will begin to see more green.

In November, nearly 20 trees were planted in the community with funding from the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources ReLeaf Matching Grant Program. Belle Point residents and members of that community's landscaping committee, Germaine Timmermans and Nancy Joy Allchin, applied for the grant after seeing an opportunity to not only improve property values but a chance to help the environment on a small scale.

See **TREES**, page 10



Nancy Joy Allchin (left) and Germaine Timmermans, members of the Belle Point Landscaping Committee, stand near some of the fruits of their labor.

Impact of Homeowner Tax Credit as Assessments Dip

by Thomas X. White

Maryland property owners reassessed this year who use the property as their principal residence should have received or, in the case of Greenbelt Homes members, will shortly receive an assessment notice containing a Homestead Tax Credit Application. This application must be submitted to the state in order to assure that the credit is granted only for eligible properties and not on properties that are rented or used as vacation homes. Even though most Greenbelt property owners have qualified for the Homestead Tax Credit for many years, legislation adopted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2007 requires homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to continue their eligibility for the credit.

The 2007 legislation was a response to reported fraudulent claims some property owners were making regarding the use of the home as their principal residence, when in fact they were claiming the credit for a vacation or second home.

See **TAX CREDIT**, page 6

Helps Homeowners

The Maryland Homestead Tax Credit was enacted to help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence. The credit limits the increase in taxable assessments to 10 percent or less each year. For Prince George's County property owners the county set its increases each year to 5 percent and the City of Greenbelt set its limit for increases to 10 percent, as does the state for its property tax assessment increases.

In the housing boom that began in the late 90s and continued through 2008, the Maryland Homestead Tax Credit insulated property owners from the full impact of ever-rising property assessments as the value of the homes increased. In fact, Maryland homeowners enjoying the fruits of the Homestead Tax Credit have been paying considerably less property taxes than the owners of similar single family homes and condominiums that are rented. In some cases the

100,000 Gallons of . . . Effluent Escape from Pumping Station

by Jon Aerts

100,000 gallons of wastewater breached a manhole cover Sunday morning just beyond the northern property line of Greenbriar Condominiums, prompting a nearly nine-hour effort by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to stop the sewage spring.

WSSC spokeswoman Lyn Riggins said a below-ground valve failure caused the overflow, which had nowhere else to go but downhill into a tributary that ultimately feeds into Beaverdam Creek.

"We took immediate actions to stop it and repair it," Riggins said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "We followed procedure."

Five yellow WSSC signs now grace the affected area, warning people of Sunday's sewage surfeit and to "avoid water contact." A slight sewage odor was also evident near the signage and the WSSC's Greenbriar Pumping House, which can be spotted along the east side of the Baltimore Washington Parkway.

Interestingly, several Greenbriar residents who live beside the affected area and pump house were – and perhaps still are – unaware of the Sunday spill.

"I didn't know about it," said Carol Adams, a Greenbriar tenant whose third floor condo overlooks part of the affected area. "It's news to me."

Another man, whose condo directly overlooks the pumping station, said he hadn't a clue. That is, not until after he read about it in The Washington Post Tuesday morning.

Jennifer Fullmer, Greenbriar's community manager, said she became aware of the incident Sunday evening and made very clear whose responsibility it was

**To Report
Water or Sewage
Emergencies
Call WSSC
301-206-4002
or
1-800-828-6439**

What Goes On

Sunday, February 7
1 to 4 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center
Monday, February 8
8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Thursday, February 11
7:30 p.m., GHI Board of Directors' Meeting, GHI Board Room



This unnamed tributary, which runs west from Greenbriar toward Beaver Dam Creek, was carrying effluent from the pumping station.

PHOTO BY JON AERTS

to inform residents about the matter – the WSSC's. "It's not our issue," Fullmer said Tuesday afternoon, adding that no residents had been affected by the spill. "It was all underground," she added.

Nevertheless, Greenbriar management sent emails to residents by 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, two days after the 100,000 gallons of wastewater first emerged.

Although Fullmer refused to

forward the email to this reporter, Mayor Judith Davis – herself a resident of the Greenbriar Association – said she received an email from Greenbriar management containing an attachment of the press release offered by the WSSC on Monday.

Like Davis, Councilmember Emmett Jordan, also a resident of

See **SEWAGE**, page 8

The Origin of Greenbriar's Sewage Pumping Station

by James Giese

Although most of the Greenbriar development is in the Indian Creek-Beaverdam Creek watershed where sewage flows naturally toward the Anacostia River and is channeled to the Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant on the Potomac River in the District of Columbia, it would have been exorbitantly costly to run a gravity flow sewer line in that direction. This is because the unnamed tributary that begins in Greenbriar, along which a gravity flow sewer line would follow, flows northward to Beaverdam Creek in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Beaverdam Creek then flows westward through BARC from the eastern side of Greenbelt to the city's westernmost side where it joins Indian Creek. It is only there that such a sewer line could connect to an existing sewer line. Besides cost, a gravity flow line from Greenbriar would have caused considerable disruption to the BARC lands and might never have received its approval.

Also, at the time that Greenbriar was in the developmental stages, there was a moratorium

on new sewer hookups to the Blue Plains facility due to inadequate capacity. The developers of Greenbriar, Rozansky and Kay, therefore, successfully sought to connect Greenbriar's sewage to lines that flowed eastward to the Western Branch Sewage Treatment Plant in the Patuxent River watershed. While they obtained the approvals needed to divert the sewage drainage from one watershed to another, WSSC then imposed a moratorium on sewage connections to that treatment plant as well.

The developers then sought approval to build a temporary sewage treatment plant on site. This proposal was the subject of much controversy. Effective citizen opposition caused a long-time delay in approvals for the plant being rendered. Finally, the plant was approved and built and opened in 1974.

Two years later the moratorium was lifted and the Greenbriar development was permitted to be connected by means of a lift station to existing sewer lines flowing to the Western Branch Plant. The lift station still remains in operation. The temporary treatment plant was removed.

Letters

THANKS!

I want to thank all my neighbors and friends for their kindnesses, prayers and well wishes during my recent tests and surgery. I appreciate your support so much. I know it will help me as I continue my treatment.

Julie Stratchko

City Notes

Animal Control found one dog running at large, picked up one injured bird and responded to a cruelty complaint.

Code Enforcement issued seven warning notices regarding excessive loud noises and music.

Planning staff met with Pepco staff to discuss the GHI right-of-way project and to gain feedback on the two options under consideration, provided feedback from city council to Metropark LLC regarding Greenbelt Station and staked the proposed new right-of-way line on Crescent Road between Gardenway and Eastway.

Public Works conducted an electronics recycling event on January 23 at the Public Works yard. Sixty-nine CPUs, 81 laptops, 80 monitors and 74 televisions, along with keyboards, stereos and other electronics were dropped off. Alkaline batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs and expanded polystyrene were also collected.

CARES' Sharon David and Jennifer Argueta, nursing student interns from Washington Adventist University, will work two days a week for the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program for the next two months with four senior clients to provide wellness checks, health care management and health education, in addition to teaching health education to students at Springhill Lake Elementary School and working at the Community Center in Empirian Village.

Postal Services Available

Limited postal services are now available in the Municipal Building Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF FEB. 5

Crazy Heart
(R)

Friday

*5, 7:30, 9:45

Saturday

*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:45

Sunday

*2:30, *5, 7:30

Monday - Thursday

*5:15, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pandgtheatres.com

AAUW Program Will Highlight Unique Japanese Publications

by Virginia Beauchamp

Area residents have an opportunity on Saturday, February 13 to attend a program concerning a unique collection of printed material dating from the end of World War II. The Gordon W. Prange Collection consists of print publications issued in Japan from 1945 to 1949 – from preschool picture books to newspapers to organizational pamphlets to news agency photographs, adult books, maps and posters.

During the American Occupation of Japan under General Douglas MacArthur, a censorship board screened all Japanese works submitted for publication. Prange, who had been a professor of history at the University of Maryland, served as one such censor.

When the Occupation ended and he was returning to his pre-war appointment at the university, he requested, and was granted, the right to bring with him copies of all this previously censored material – cases and cases and cases. Nowhere in the world – including Japan – does such a comprehensive collection exist

of works published at this crucial period in the history of the country.

The public is invited to attend the February 13 program, at which Eiko Sakaguchi, curator of the collection, and its manager, Amy Wasserstrom, will show a short film and discuss the collection and its history. The program is sponsored by the College Park Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and AAUW member Virginia Beauchamp, who served with the American Red Cross in northern Japan in 1946-47 and who will share photographs of her time there as well.

The program will take place at 10 a.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park. (Knox Road crosses U.S. 1 at the commercial section of the city. The building, a short block from the College Park Metro station, is a city facility.)

For further information, RSVP Terry Sayler at 410-757-2446, email terrysayler@yahoo.com or Beauchamp at 301-474-7183. Refreshments will be served.

Laurel Museum Hosts Sadler Photographs

The Laurel Museum, 817 Main Street, hosts a rare opportunity to view early 20th century photographs depicting Laurel. The program takes place at 7 p.m. on February 11 at the Laurel Municipal Pool Room, 9th and Main Street. There will be a lecture on the Sadler Photographs and a unique view of Laurel in the early part of the century. Participants will need a critical eye to look for what is not there.

The program is free. For more information, call 301-725-7975 or email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

The museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. Admission to the Laurel Museum is free.

2nd Tuesday Lecture: Booth Escape Route

The next event in the Bowie Museum Second Tuesday lecture series, at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9 will trace the escape route of John Wilkes Booth through Prince George's County and Virginia after shooting President Abraham Lincoln. A real treat for American history buffs, the lecture will be given by Jeff Korman from the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Free and open to the public, no reservations required, the lecture will be held at the Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive.

For further information email museumevents@cityofbowie.org or call 301-809-3089.

Grin Belt



"Our fellow squirrels are more interested in the Super Bowl than going back to the Moon."

On Screen

Can This Alcoholic Really Reform?

Jeff Bridges stars as a former country music star ravaged by alcohol in "Crazy Heart," beginning Friday at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Can he maintain his relationship with the journalist and single mother who interviews him, played by Maggie Gyllenhaal?

The bittersweet film is based on a 1987 novel of the same name and is directed by Scott Cooper. Robert Duvall and Colin Farrell lead the supporting cast.

Rated R for language and brief sexuality; runs 112 minutes.

– Carol Griffith

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Carol Griffith, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2010

GHI BOARD ROOM, 7:30 PM

GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Yard Line Certification: 6 & 8 Courts Research Road
- Proposed Gardenside Addition, 14X Ridge Road
- Request from the Buildings Committee for \$3000 to Purchase Measuring Instruments
- Discussion of Community Assets
- Green Ribbon Task Force – Wrap Up Discussion

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website - www.ghi.coop

Community Events

At the Library

Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories.

Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 and 2 p.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies for each group.

Wednesday, February 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddertime for ages 18 to 35 months, with caregiver, limit 15 children for each group.

Thursday, February 11, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages three to five years, limit 20 children.

Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.

GHI Notes

Thursday, February 4, 7 p.m., Board Meeting with Police Department – Board Room

Friday, February 5, Offices closed (emergency maintenance available: call 301-474-6011)

Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Task Force – Board Room

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee – Board Room

7:30 p.m., Marketing Committee – GHI Lobby

Thursday, February 11, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting – Board Room

Monday, February 15, Offices closed for Presidents' Day (emergency maintenance available: call 301-474-6011)

Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Volunteers Sought For ERHS Library

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) is urgently seeking volunteer assistance in its library. Volunteers are needed during the school day to assist the ERHS librarian.

The Prince George's County Public Schools' 2011 proposed budget eliminates library media aides although a need currently exists for additional library help. Coverage is most needed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any amount of help is welcome. Library experience is helpful but not required.

Interested volunteers are asked to email ERHS Principal Reginald McNeill at rmcneill@pgcps.org or call 301-513-5400, ext. 225.

Computer Club Meets Feb. 11

The Greenbelt Computer Club will hold its February meeting on Thursday, February 11 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center in Room 103. Everyone is welcome.

More Community Events see pages 2, 4, 5, 10 and 11.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

Governor's Wellmobile At SHL School Feb. 8

The Governor's Wellmobile will be at Springhill Lake Elementary School on Monday, February 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Scheduled for the second and fourth Monday of every month, the Wellmobile is for those who lack health insurance or are underinsured.

Afghanistan Movie Is Next Reel & Meal Film

The next film in the monthly Reel & Meal at the New Deal free film series, "Rethink Afghanistan," will be shown at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 15 at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway.

This recent Robert Greenwald/Brave New Foundation documentary raises doubts about current U.S. policy in the region. It explores key issues about the war in Afghanistan – the effectiveness of military escalation, the threat of destabilizing Pakistan, the scale of civilian casualties, the war's potential to better Afghan women's lives and its cost to U.S. taxpayers. (A full description is at www.rethinkafghanistan.com.) An optional vegan meal is available for purchase at 6:30 p.m.

Following the film, guest speaker Alicia Lucksted, a Baltimore volunteer for the Afghan Women's Fund, will offer comments and lead audience discussion. As part of the group's mission to help the Afghan people survive and rebuild, she will also sell a selection of Afghan handicrafts. Lucksted has over 10 years' experience in volunteer solidarity work with different women's groups in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Women's Fund engages volunteers in people-to-people work with grassroots women's groups and a number of rural communities in Afghanistan. The projects are those deemed important by the local Afghans and support basic needs such as schools, literacy classes, clinics, new wells, vocational training and income-generating enterprises. These projects also give Afghan women an international voice for human rights advocacy.

The Reel & Meal at the New Deal series is sponsored by a consortium of local grassroots organizations concerned with social and environmental issues. The upcoming Afghanistan film is organized by the Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition.

For more information, email justpeacepg@earthlink.net or call 301-577-2350 or visit www.womenforafghanwomen.org.

ACE Reading Club Meets on Thursday

The Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Reading Club for children meets on the second Thursday of each month, with the next meeting on February 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Springhill Lake Elementary School.

The Club is free to all Greenbelt children ages 8 to 14. The ACE Reading Club and the ACE Science Club are sponsored by the City of Greenbelt. Come enjoy book discussions, games, puzzles and more.

The club will also meet on: March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10 and July 8.

Co-op Offers Cheese Tasting

Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative (Co-op) will host a free cheese tasting demonstration on Saturday, February 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FireFly Farms will be providing samples and will have details on ordering other products directly from the farm.

FireFly offers nationally and internationally award-winning premium goat cheese that features the distinct regional flavors of Maryland's Allegheny Plateau. The cheese of FireFly Farms is produced using agriculturally sustainable, locally-sourced fresh goat's milk and time-honored, traditional methods of goat cheese making.

NARFE Meeting

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Chapter 1122 Northern PG County will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Building in the Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway. The theme "Senior Safety" will be presented by Sgt. Pina Blackstone, C.O.P.S., Prince George's County Police Department. More information is available on the website www.mdnarfe.org/chapter1122.

Astronomical Star Party this Weekend

On Saturday, February 6 the Astronomical Society will hold a star party at Northway Field.

Members of the society will begin to set up to view the moon and other celestial objects at approximately 6 p.m. and stay at the site until about 8 p.m.

Bring a new telescope and members will help set it up.

In the event of rain or cloudy skies the event will be cancelled without notice. For more information visit www.greenbeltastro.org/events.shtml.

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.
Adults/Seniors: \$6.50
Children: \$6.00

ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON
ON SATURDAY \$5.00

ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.

Adults: \$8.50
Students/Military: \$7.50

Children: \$6.00
Seniors: \$6.50

R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of FEB. 5

FRI. – SAT.
Alvin & the Chipmunks "The Squeakquel," PG-13
11:50, 2:45, 5:20

Up in the Air, R
7:30, 10:20

The Spy Next Door, PG
11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:30, 10:20

The Tooth Fairy, PG (!!)

11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

From Paris With Love, R (!)

11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20

The Book of Eli, R (!!!)

11:20, 2, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20

Edge of Darkness, R (!)

11:20, 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

Avatar, PG-13

11:40, 2:50, 6:20, 9:30

Legion, R

11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

SUN.

Alvin & the Chipmunks "The Squeakquel," PG-13
11:50, 2:45, 5:20

Up in the Air, R
7:30

The Spy Next Door, PG
11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:40

The Tooth Fairy, PG (!!!)

11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 7:45

From Paris With Love, R (!)

11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 7:40

The Book of Eli, R (!!!)

11:20, 2, 4:50, 7:30

Edge of Darkness, R (!!!)

11:20, 2, 4:50, 7:30

Avatar, PG-13

12:20, 3:30, 6:45

Legion, R

11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40

MON. – THU.

Alvin & the Chipmunks "The Squeakquel," PG-13
12:10, 2:40, 5:20

Up in the Air, R
7:30

The Spy Next Door, PG
12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:30

The Tooth Fairy, PG

12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45

From Paris With Love, R (!)

12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40

The Book of Eli, R

12:40, 3:40, 7

Edge of Darkness, R (!!!)

12:40, 3:40, 7

Avatar, PG-13

12:20, 3:30, 6:45

Legion, R

12:40, 3:40, 7

Greenbelt Nursery School Open House

Registration for Fall 2010

Saturday, February 20, 10 am – 1 pm

Classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4

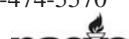
Two, three, and five days a week. Low child to staff ratio.

Full day educational programs available.

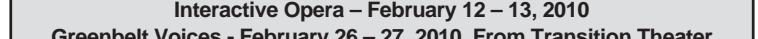
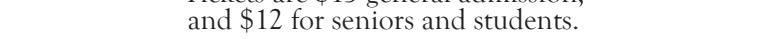
Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road

301-474-5570

www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org



Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs



Obituaries

Peggy L'Ecuyer

Former Greenbelter Peggy L'Ecuyer, age 73, died on January 19, 2010, at her home in Herndon, Va.



She was born on November 18, 1936, in Taiwan to the late Shigeyuki Sasaki and Setsu Shibusaki Sasaki.

Her husband, the late Roger L'Ecuyer, preceeded her in death.

She is survived by son Thomas R. L'Ecuyer of Chantilly, Va., and daughter Susan L'Ecuyer Nichols of Dunkirk, Md.; sisters Koji Sasaki and Kiyoe Kawaguchi; grandchildren Thomas, Jr., Steven and Amy; and great-granddaughter Deliah.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, February 6 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Susan's home, 3415 Lancer Court, Dunkirk, Md., where a service will begin at 3 p.m.

The family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to Freedom Petals (michelebev@gmail.com), a nonprofit organization that creates flower arrangements for recuperating service members at Walter Reed Hospital, Malogne House and Fisher House. Arrangements were made by Adams-Green Funeral Home, Herndon, Va.

Global Warming Video Will Show on Feb. 10

On Wednesday, February 10 the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will show the full-length feature documentary video "Renewal: An Interfaith Call to Action" at 7 p.m. in Room 114 at the Greenbelt Community Center. Hear from local faith communities who are part of a growing green sanctuary movement.

Renewal is a film that captures the vitality and diversity of religious-environmental activists. Americans are becoming caretakers of the Earth through their Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Muslim traditions and re-examining what it means to be human and how people live on this planet. The film relates stories of combating global warming and the devastation of mountaintop removal, promoting food security, environmental justices, recycling, land preservation and teaching love and respect for life on Earth.

All are invited to this free program to see the film and share information with others in a discussion of sustainable education and practices.

For more information call Lore Rosenthal at 301-345-2234 or email lore@simplicity-matters.org.



**Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

New Deal Café Upcoming Events

On Thursday, February 4 from noon to 2 p.m. pianist Amy C. Kraft brightens wintry Thursdays with mid-day melodies. The weekly open microphone session will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Greenbelt's "piano man" John Guernsey starts the weekend off with jazz and blues from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, February 5 (and every Friday and Saturday). From 8 to 11 p.m. the Cypress Trio Cajun Music Jam offers a hot and spicy way to deal with a cold winter evening (usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month).

On Saturday, February 6 from 1 to 2:45 p.m. Bruce Kritt plays classical guitar. From 3 to 6 p.m. join in or watch about 15 musicians improvise during the Art McKinney Real Book Jazz Jam. From 8 to 11 p.m. Alan Turnbull and the Long Time Coming band are welcomed back by friends and others who love acoustic rock-n-roll.

Sunday, February 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jim Stimson plays Renaissance lute. Then it's back to rock and country bluegrass with Morrigan "Mo" Condo, singer, songwriter and guitarist from 5 to 8 p.m.

Next Week

On Tuesday, February 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. Tori Heller plays acoustic/folk/progressive music. Wednesday, February 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. the Quimby Mountain Band plays rock/soul/funk. Fri-

day, February 12 "Ask Vickie!" plays smooth jazz and soulful music from 8 to 11 p.m. On Saturday, February 13 from 8 to 11 p.m. Mike and Noelle and crew play indie/folk/rock.

On Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, there will be music for the heart all day, when Bruce Kritt serenades from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by the new Onion Workshop Trio's "love" jazz to 9 p.m.

For more information call Chef Karim Kmaiba at 301-474-5642.

People & Pooch Hike on Feb. 13

Join a naturalist for a morning on the trails with a pooch on Saturday, February 13 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Upper Marlboro. The group will go on multiple trails, explore the natural world and release some doggie energy.

This is a free activity. Wear warm clothing, comfortable shoes and bring a water dish. All dogs attending must be with an owner 18 or older, be restrained on a leash and be dog and people friendly. No children are permitted on the hike. No dog-aggressive or people-aggressive dogs are allowed.

A reservation is necessary. This is SMARTlink activity # 152428. For details call 301-218-6702, TTY 301-446-3402.



Greenbelters were saddened to learn of the death of Peggy L'Ecuyer, who had moved to Herndon, Va.

Congratulations to:

– Grace Seo (4th grade), Nia Brown (5th grade) and David Gardner (6th grade) who will represent Greenbelt Elementary at the county's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fair this year.

– Drs. Robert and Kari Beth Stuntz of York, Pa., on the birth of their first child, Emmitt, on January 28, 2010. The new baby has a long line of Green-

belt forebears: his grandparents are Gerald Linstrom and Wendy (Winker) Linstrom and his great-grandparents are Mary Linstrom and Arthur and Louise (Steinle) Winker of Florida.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West (Springhill Lake/Empirian Village). To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



February 7, 10 a.m.

"Love and Peace" by Guest Preacher Christina Leone, with Tish Hall, worship associate. Guest Pianist Audrey Andrist

Reflecting about how love can guide us to a peaceful and more just society. We'll talk about St. Valentine, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Carl Sagan and the Beatles.

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Sunday 8:15 am
9:15 am
10:30 am

Worship Service
Sunday School/Bible Study
Worship Service



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Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
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Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!

Sunday 9:45 am
Sunday 11:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Sunday School
Worship Service
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"



Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning! Coffee and Snacks
10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship
Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv.

99 Centerway Greenbelt Rec Center
(Behind the Community Center)

BE A PART OF OUR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION!

301-474-4499

The Bahá'í community of Greenbelt asks for your prayers and support for seven Iranian Bahá'í leaders who are to appear before an Islamic Republic Revolutionary Court on Sunday, February 7.

These prisoners face a series of false charges stemming from their membership in the Bahá'í Faith – the largest non-Muslim religious minority in Iran. More than 200 Bahá'ís have been executed by Iranian authorities since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Please join us in praying for the safety of all unjustly imprisoned individuals in Iran.

To learn more about the Bahá'ís in Iran,
please visit: <http://iran.bahai>.

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
1-800-22-UNITE
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com 301-345-2918
www.bahai.us

Co-op Nursery School To Hold Open House

Greenbelt Nursery School will hold its annual Open House on Saturday, February 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the start of registration for the school year beginning September 2010.

Greenbelt Nursery School is a not-for-profit parent cooperative in its 67th year of operation. The school is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The school offers classes for children age 2, 3 and 4. Full day educational programs are available.

Families seeking pre-school programs are invited to attend the Open House; meet the director, teachers and parents; view the classrooms; and get information about the classes.

The school is located in the Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Road.

For more information visit the school website at www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org or call the school at 301-474-5570.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club enjoyed a delightful sing-along at the January 27 meeting. Music and laughter are some of the best medicine we can have and we certainly had a joyous dose of that on Wednesday. Many thanks to Chris Cherry and Steve Brodd for such a great program.

The speaker on February 10 will be Dot Wilson, who will give us information about the U.S. Census. Many federal funds are awarded to states and counties based on census data. The census begins in April so that is the time to stand up and be counted.

Our condolences and thoughts go to Comfort Ogbro in the loss of her son.

Exhibition Highlights County Artists' Work

The exhibition TIME/SPACE: An Exhibition of Prince George's County Artists highlights artists who live and work in Prince George's County. Artists were asked to address the concepts of Time and Space in their work. The show, which is currently on display in the Prince George's Delegation Wing of the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis through April 12, features the work of sculptors, painters, photographers and fabric artists in the area. The exhibition, which coincides with Maryland's legislative session, reinforces for the lawmakers that artists are important constituents and members of the community.

Artists represented in the exhibition include Nora Simon, Celestine Ranney-Howes, Diane Tuckman, Kenneth Cox, and Jason Cox.

A reception with the artists will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18 in the Prince George's Delegation Wing of the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. For information call 301-446-3232; TTY 301-3234.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**
Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 8, 2010 - 8:00 p.m.

Municipal Building

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

Minutes of Council Meetings

- * - Work Session, December 8, 2009
- * - Work Session, December 16, 2009
- * - Regular Meeting, January 11, 2010
- Executive Session, January 20, 2010
- Executive Session, January 25, 2010
- * - Regular Meeting, January 25, 2010
- * - Interviews, February 1, 2010

Administrative Reports

Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Major Mechanical Equipment for the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center from Shapiro and Duncan Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, at a cost not to exceed \$550,000. 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- State Legislation
- Renewal of City Liquor Licenses
- Appointments to 75th Anniversary Committee
- Reappointments to Advisory Groups

MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltdmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

SKI ROUNDTOP SNOW TUBING TRIP



Participants will be grouped by age and led by Greenbelt Recreation Department staff. Fee includes chaperones, transportation, tubing and lift fees, and dinner. All participants must bring a bag lunch or money to purchase lunch at the resorts. Due to risks associated with weather and snow conditions at the resorts, these trips may be cancelled or the destination may be changed up to the day before the scheduled trip.

WHEN: Friday, February 12

TIME: 8:30am – 7:00pm

(Vans will depart Youth Center at 10AM)

AGES: 10-15

FEES: R- \$45, NR- \$55

For more information please call the Greenbelt Recreation Department Business Office at 301-397-2200.

AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1-4pm FREE

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER



Featuring a 3pm performance by
**THE FABULOUS CHINESE
ACROBATS!**

See amazing feats of balance, flexibility, coordination and strength!

1pm: **MAKE A MUD CLOTH** with Artist in Residence Karen Arrington.

**ENTER TO WIN THEATER
TICKETS!**

See *Hotel Cassiopeia* at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Center.

For more information call
301-397-2208

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 8-12

Monday, February 8, 2010, 8:00 pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**, at the Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71, and Streaming at www.greenbeltdmd.gov.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 7:40pm, **INTERVIEWS FOR YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, at the Community Center.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000 or contact the City Clerk at cmurray@greenbeltdmd.gov.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

Vacancies exist on: **Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Board, and the Youth Advisory Committee**

For more info call 301-474-8000.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS: IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A MAILING FROM A COMPANY CALLED HOME SERVICE, IT IS NOT ENDORSED OR IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OR THE CITY OF GREENBELT.

This is an independent insurance provider offering coverage for your water line. The listing of State of Maryland, Prince George's County, and the City of Greenbelt on the top of the mailing can be easily mistaken for official mail from one of these governmental agencies. Please read all of your mail carefully and research thoroughly any company offering such coverage.

SPRING AND SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION!

THE CAMPS PROGRAMS BROCHURE FOR 2010 IS NOW POSTED AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV. REGISTRATION IS NOW BEING ACCEPTED BY THE GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT. DOWNLOAD THE CAMP BROCHURE NOW AND SECURE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT IN THE CITY'S VERY POPULAR PROGRAMS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE BROCHURE, PLEASE CONTACT THE RECREATION BUSINESS OFFICE AT 301-397-2200.

ANIMAL SHELTER PETS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Wally on his adoption.

Come see the following pets at the shelter:



Tom: Special needs male tabby cat. FIV positive. Super sweet and friendly.

Cinnamon: High energy and very playful female 1-1/2 year old white Jack Russell mix.



Frosty: Beautiful White and Gray female around 2 years old.



Pelka: Older female gray tabby. Friendly and loving.



Jasper: 2 year old neutered male Yorkie. Very cute!



Become a fan of the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Facebook!

Greenbelt Animal Shelter is located behind the Police Station at 550-A Crescent Road, is open on Wednesdays, from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. For more information on any of these pets, call 301.474.6124. Thank you to all for your donations. The shelter is still in need of KITTY LITTER! Please drop off donations at the shelter any time.

TAX CREDIT

continued from page 1

property tax bill for a Homestead Tax Credit eligible home compared to a rental home right next door could be about 50 percent less at the height of the boom years.

Now, the housing bubble has burst and the country is in the midst of one of the most serious economic downturns the U.S. (and most of the world) has faced. Indeed the cause of the downturn has been mainly attributed to the collapse of the housing industry, with foreclosures at an all-time high. Fortunately, Greenbelt has been relatively immune, thus far, from the foreclosure epidemic. The greatest impact for Greenbelt homeowners has been 20 to 40 percent reductions in the resale values for their homes and a loss of equity in those homes.

Tax Rates

Even though the Maryland Homestead Tax Credit program provided lower tax bills for homeowners than would have been the case without the credit, many homeowners believe that property taxes are still too high. Besides the actual property assessments which have risen steadily for years, the other factor for overall tax bills is the rate. Since 2002 the overall property tax rate for a Greenbelt homeowner has increased from \$1.71 per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.869 per \$100 of assessed value. This includes the share of the property tax rate levied by the State of Maryland, Prince George's County, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and the City of Greenbelt. During the same period the Greenbelt property tax rate increased from \$0.628 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.786 per \$100 of assessed value, or just under \$0.16 over the eight years.

Effect on Budget

Because Greenbelt single family residences are receiving their new triennial assessments this year it is likely that the property assessments for Greenbelt homes will come in lower than previous years. Greenbelt officials have not yet received the new property assessment data from the state that they need in order to construct their Fiscal Year 2010 budget that begins on July 1, 2010.

They have been able to screen a sample of the reassessments and are expecting a potential decrease in the range of 10 to 20 percent for Greenbelt residences. They believe that if that percentage holds true for the total property tax assessment base in Greenbelt, the impact on the FY10 would be manageable. Part of the "good news" provided to the council by the city manager at its pre-budget worksession on January 20 was that the city has \$3 million in Homestead Tax Credits that will serve to cushion the expected reduction in property tax assessments. That \$3 million is equal to about 28 percent of the city's single family residential assessment.

Although it is not completely known at this time how the credits will align with the actual reductions, if the 10 to 20 percent range of reductions holds true, then the potential impact on the FY10 budget would not be great. Good news for the city, but not exactly the news that homeowners might be looking forward to when they receive their tax bills.

College Workshop in Spanish Saturday

The Prince George's County Board of Education and Prince George's County Public Schools Office of Professional School Counseling will hold a free College Workshop in Spanish, "Estudio Universitarios a su Alcance - A College Education Is Within Your Reach" on Saturday, February 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the University of Maryland Adele H. Stamp Student Union in College Park.

The workshop is for Latino students and their families. Deputy State's Attorney Carlos F. Acosta will deliver the keynote address. The event will include a fair with bilingual representatives from area colleges, universities and community organizations. Counselors, guest speakers and student panelists will discuss the following topics in grade-level workshops:

Grade 12 – How to finance a college education and how to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid);

Grade 11 – How to apply for college and how to get financial aid;

Grades 9 and 10 – How to succeed in high school and prepare for college; and

Grades 6, 7 and 8 – Early preparation for a college dream.

More than 1,100 people attended this free event last year. Tours of the University of Maryland campus will also be available. The workshop is designed for students in Grades 6 to 12 but is open to all families in Prince George's County.

More information is available and can be found on the school system website at www.pgcps.org or by calling 301-445-8460.

LOVE NOTES IN NEXT ISSUE!

Greenbelt Baseball 2010 REGISTRATION DATES

Saturdays: February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6

10 AM – 12 PM @ Greenbelt Youth Center

10 AM – 12 PM @ Springhill Lake Youth Center

First Year Player Clinic @ McDonald Field 10 AM, Saturday, March 13

Major League Players Only
(Registration Available at Clinic)

Tee Ball Ages 5 – 6 • Machine Pitch Ages 7 – 8
Major League Ages 9 – 12

Major League and Machine Pitch

Residents: \$40 (\$30 each additional sibling)

Non-Residents: \$60 (\$30 each additional sibling)

Tee Ball \$30 (Residents & Non-Residents)

Please Bring a Copy of Child's Birth Certificate

For More Information Greg Fisanich 301-441-4647
Major League and Machine-Pitch Commissioner

Pat Kennedy 301-552-2493

Tee Ball Commissioner

www.leaguelineup.com/greenbeltbaseball

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www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

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Dairy	Deli	Frozen
Tropicana Pure Premium Orange Juice Asst. 59-64 oz.	Kraft American Cheese Assorted 14-16 oz.	Hatfield Cooked Ham
Land-O-Lakes Margarine Quarters 1 lb.	Sargento. Shredded Cheese Assorted 5-8 oz.	Deli Gourmet Corned Beef
Aim Tooth Paste Assorted 6-7 oz.	Seabest Frozen Tilapia Fillet 1 lb.	Deli Gourmet American Cheese
Robitussin Cough, Cold & Allergy Formulas 4 oz.	Canadian Frozen Snow Crab Leg Clusters	Blue Bunny Ice Cream Assorted 1.75 qt.
Health & Beauty	Seafood	Natural & Gourmet
		Birds Eye Reg. & Steamfresh Vegetables Assorted 10-16 oz.
Bakery		
		Heritage Select Basmati Rice Side Dishes Assorted 6.5 oz.
		Hero Original Premium Preserves Assorted 12 oz.
		Fresh Store Baked Pumpernickel or Rye Bread
		Fresh Store Baked Cherry Pie 8 inch

Grocery Bargains			
Lipton/Knorr Noodles or Rice in Sauce Assorted 4-7 oz.	Prego Pasta Sauces Assorted 23-24 oz.	Peter Pan Peanut Butter Assorted 16.3 oz.	Kellogg's Rice Krispies Cereal 18 oz.
Ken's Family Size Salad Dressings Assorted 16 oz.	Star Kist Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz.	Campbell's Select Harvest Soups Assorted 18 oz.	Chock Full-O-Nuts Original Ground Coffee 13 oz.

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Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

January 28, 9:05 p.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. A person was approached by a man who produced a handgun and demanded money. The robber is described as a black male, 22 to 23 years old, 5'11" to 6'1" tall, 210 to 230 pounds, wearing a gray jacket, dark pants and a black ski mask.

DWI/DUI

January 22, 2:41 a.m., 100 block Ridge Road. A 23-year-old resident male was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related violations after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trials.

Burglaries

January 21, 10:20 p.m., 7300 block Morrison Drive. Nothing was taken.

January 27, 12:34 p.m., 100 block of Westway. A TV, camera and two laptop computers were taken.

January 27, 10:32 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Court. An attempted burglary occurred.

Drug Arrests

January 23, 1:55 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Lane. Two males, a 21-year-old resident and a 22-year-old nonresident, were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana after a traffic stop. Both men were transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

January 25, 8:19 p.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A 24-year-old resident male was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a citation pending trial.

January 28, 2:33 p.m., 6100 block Greenbelt Road. A resident juvenile was petitioned for possession of marijuana and released to a parent pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

Vandalism

January 24, 10:13 a.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace. Graffiti was found in the laundry room of a building.

January 25, 1:05 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court. Windows in a vacant unit were broken.

January 27, 11:28 p.m., 7800 block Lakecrest Drive. A glass patio door was broken.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

SEWAGE continued from page 1



PHOTO BY JON AERTS

The area of the sewage spill from the Greenbriar pumping station is marked with yellow warning signs.

Greenbriar, said that things seemed to be under control at the site, with the Maryland Department of Environment and the Prince George's County Health Department looking

into the matter.

To say nothing of the implications 100,000 gallons of sewage water may have on Beaverdam Creek, Riggins emphasized the

WSSC's commitment to providing quality sewage maintenance. "One gallon . . . no, any amount," she said, was far too much. "We acted as quickly as possible."

WARNING

Read This Before Filing Your TAX RETURN!

Many People Will Miss Out On BIGGER REFUNDS
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Congress has passed some very confusing tax laws! To protect yourself from filing an "incorrect" tax return this year and missing out on a ton of cash that is supposed to be YOURS, you better call a tax professional to help you get ALL the money you deserve back from the IRS!

Hi, my name is Bob Newland and I have been a tax professional in this area for 29 years. I have an office on Route 1 near Wendy's, and an experienced "hand picked" staff. Robert C. Newland & Associates will not only prepare your tax return, we will help you keep the highest amount of money legally possible, AND, if we prepare your return, We Will Electronically File Your Tax Return with the IRS AND the State of Maryland for FREE!

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MERCHANDISE

HP LASERJET III, NEC Multisync monitor – \$49 OBO Must sell. Robert, 301-953-3921.

FOR SALE – \$50 overhead projector, \$150 Exerciser 2000 Elite not in use. Teresa, 301-313-0860.

REAL ESTATE – RENTAL

NICE ROOM TO RENT – Renovated house in Old Greenbelt. Variable lease. House shared with graduate student. Available now. \$450+U. Call 301-905-6422.

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BOXED: \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Tuesday.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.



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Hyattsville - Single Family, 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath—REDUCED \$199,000
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Thursday, February 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Prince George's County Association of
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Thursday, February 18, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
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Coming Soon: 2BR Brick, 3 BR Brick, 2 BR, Brick End, 2 BR Frame, & More, Check Back!!

TREES continued from page 1

landscaping labor, provided by Brickman Group.

Belle Point's landscaping committee purchased a variety of trees, keeping in mind those species that grow best in the area and flower at different seasons. Belle Point residents can now enjoy the shade and beauty provided by the addition of new maples, Norway spruces, crepe myrtles, dogwoods and other young trees.

Silke Pope, president of the Belle Point Homeowner's Association and city councilmember, appreciates the time and effort that went into the project.

"We're very proud. It really beautifies our community and we thank the dedicated people willing to step up and give their time to this project," she said.

The new trees were mainly planted in once empty traffic islands around the community.

"It's a real uplift to see something that's beautiful, that it's not barren-looking," Timmermans said.

One highlight of the project is the addition of a weeping cherry tree at the west end of the development. In the spring its blooming pink blossoms will give residents a chance to see the beautiful flowers reminiscent of those at the district's Tidal Basin.

We thought it'd be nice to have some of the joy and the beauty of the famous cherry blossoms, Timmermans said.

Timmermans hopes the addition of new trees will also benefit Belle Point's active wildlife by providing safe nesting space.

Although the winter's heavy snowfall has forced a significant portion of the landscaping committee's 2010 budget to be spent on snow removal, Timmermans hopes the committee will continue to add color to the Belle Point community this year. So far, 100 daffodil bulbs were planted right before the January 30 snowfall.

"It's a start," she said.

City Seeks FEMA Funds For Snow Removal Costs

by James Giese

It cost the City of Greenbelt \$82,640.43 to remove the 19-inch December snowfall from city streets and sidewalks during a 48-hour declared emergency period according to an expenditure summary prepared by Carolyn Clemens, assistant director of Public Works. The city has asked the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to reimburse the city for these costs incurred for the period beginning 12 a.m. on Saturday, December 19 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. Since the snowfall actually began on Friday and city crews kept working on snow removal well after Sunday, the cost summary does not reflect all city expenditures for the event.

The breakdown included labor costs of \$38,132.43, equipment costs of \$34,260 and road salt costs for 100 tons of salt of \$7,092. This accounting was

done following FEMA standards. At its January 11 meeting, Greenbelt City Manager Michael McLaughlin told the city council that while the city has sought reimbursement, FEMA could determine that the snow event did not qualify for federal assistance.

The city's labor expense budget for snow removal for the fiscal year, including employee benefits but not overhead expense for management labor, is about \$45,000.



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Rafael Aguilar, Virjilio Palma and Marshall Soto from the Brickman Group determine the staking for the snow fountain cherry they planted for Belle Point with the help of the Prince George's County ReLeaf Grant.

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Blue Sky Puppets Offer "Rufus"

The College Park Arts Exchange and Blue Sky Puppet Theatre will present the play "Rufus" on Sunday, February 14 at 3 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park.

Based in University Park, Blue Sky has brought children's theater to the area since 1974. This play is ideal for ages three and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is suggested for this event as space is limited. Email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013 for more information.

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Black History Month ERHS Poster Project

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announces publication of the official Prince George's County Celebration – Black History Month 2010 poster. Conceived by artist Billy Colbert in a project with students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), the poster honors notable African American figures who have had Prince George's County schools named after them. Each year, a county high school is selected to participate in the Black History Month Poster Project, an art enrichment program.

The poster, titled "Honor Roll of Excellence: Prince George's County Schools Named for African Americans," was created by Colbert in a joint project with ERHS students Taylor Baker, Chanel Brown, Anyam Check, Janae Chestnut, Dakota Cloud, Fikayo Falodun, Brendan Forristal, Alison Harris, Sylvia Hunter, Troy Lake, Jasmine Plater, Tiara Smith, Camila Queirolo Arriagada, Alexus Stewart and Yvette Tamukong, all members of Becky Thomas' art class.

In their sessions with Colbert, the students discussed and responded to images of various African American leaders who have had schools in Prince George's County named after them and created abstract compositions and learned silkscreening techniques to create their own individual posters. The students' posters will be on display at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington from February 7 to 28.

Over 7,000 Celebration – Black History Month 2010 posters will be distributed free of charge during February at M-NCPPC Black History Month 2010 events.

Veterans Concert Is Free on Feb. 14

Little Anthony and The Imperials will be performing during the 1st Annual Valentines for Veterans Concert: A Veterans Appreciation & Welcome Home Celebration at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m.

This free event is open to the public based on the availability of tickets.

The concert will include several tributes to Maryland's veterans. There will be a reception in the hall lobby beginning at 1 p.m. Tickets are required for both the reception and the concert and can be obtained through the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall Box Office at 1-410-783-8000.

For more information about the concert or to learn about volunteer opportunities throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System, visit www.maryland.va.gov or call 1-800-463-6295, ext. 7101.

Learn Latin Dance Basics

On Saturdays, February 6 and 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park, dancers from Ballroom at Maryland will teach swing and Latin dance.

There is a nominal fee per class and drop-ins are welcome. For more information, email info@cpae.org or phone 301-927-3013.

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Corner lot with extra 1/2 bath - Completely remodeled by Home with refinished floors, 2nd levels. Large lot, patio and more. **\$129,900**

Townhome With Addition - First-level addition with extra half-bath - room opens onto private deck. Two bedrooms and remodeled bath upstairs.

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Value Priced! - Remodeled two bedroom townhome owned by GHI. Fresh paint, new carpet and more. Located near protected woodlands. **\$119,900**

Townhome With Garage - 2 Bedroom GHI townhome within walking distance to Roosevelt Center. Backs to open space. Tastefully decorated. **\$189,900**

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Corner Lot - 3 br. GHI townhome w/ large deck, patio, sunroom, woods. Fresh paint, open kit., fp, ceiling fans, large yard. **REDUCED!** Only **\$154,900**

Completely Remodeled - 3 Br townhome with new kitchen and dining area. Amazing bathroom. Fresh paint, modern kitchen. Wow! **\$169,900**

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Large Floorplan - Large Corner Lot 3 br GHI - Engineered hardwood flrs, ceramic tile in bath, modern appliances, new blinds & more. **\$189,900**

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More Snow Means More Work (and Play) around Town



Much less snow this time allowed Greenbelt Public Works crews to clear streets and then begin work on pedestrian needs. Robbie Tripe manning the leaf blower and David Gross with a shovel work on clearing sidewalks near the Municipal Building. Behind them is Carlos Bigil.

While employees may be tiring of the added work and the city struggles to contain costs related to snow removal (see separate story on page 10), Greenbelt's children (and some of their parents as well) still find time to enjoy it. At left, Doug Mangum and daughter Ashley Mangum sled.

BRACE YOURSELVES! Looks like there's more white stuff on the way!